Many leads checked in assassination probe

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The FBI dutifully investigated hundreds of apparently worthless leads and bizarre theories in the slaying of John F. Kennedy, according to documents released Wednesday.

The pope and Fidel Castro figured in theories volunteered to the FBI, which also looked into such unlikely suspects as a group of Jews in Winnipeg, Canada, and the minister of the Church of the Firstborn of the Fullness of Times.

More than 1,300 pages of the documents were made up of reports on hundreds of people who been heard about the time of the assassination making some threatening remark like "Kennedy will get his."

One letter written Nov. 26, 1963 by a woman in Anderson, S.C., said the Kennedy assassination was a plot by England and Italy following a visit "some years ago" by President Kennedy and Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy to Pope Pius VIII — presumably she meant John XXIII or Pius VI who succeeded him in 1963.

THE KENNEDYS, she said, "intended to clear up some reports they had found about England's Queen Elizabeth II being the daughter of a former president of the United States, a Democrat, Woodrow Wilson."

The Secret Service, she said, exchanged Elizabeth for two other princesses who were taken to South Carolina.

The vague tale continued for pages.

The FBI investigated a person who wanted to send a telegram to Andrei Gromyko and an obscene letter sent to Marguerite Oswald, the assassin's mother, threatening "Us Nazis'll kill ya'."

ON DEC. 2, 1963 the U.S. embassy in Rome reported an American newspaper columnist there — his identity was censored from the FBI report — said the Spanish ambassador to Italy had shown him a report from the Spanish Intelligence Service alleging Kennedy's assassination was brought about by Fidel Castro.

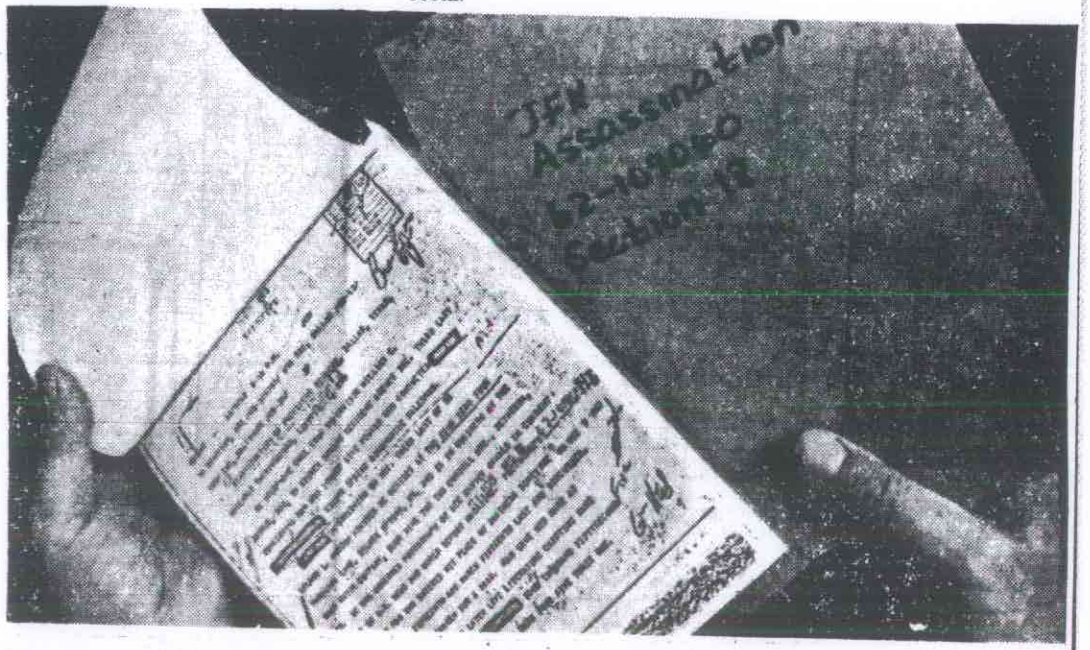
Castro, according to the alleged Spanish intelligence report, "has been most upset by the apparent rapport established between President Kennedy and Premier (Nikita) Khrushchev . . . and felt that some dire act was needed to destroy this rapport."

The FBI sought to check with Spanish intelligence if Oswald "was acting as a Cuban agent" but no reply was recorded.

On a tip, the FBI found a telephone book at a gas station in Scottsdale, Ariz., six months after the assassination. Written on the front page was "John Wilks Booth" and under it "115 Death Row." The middle name of Abraham Lincoln's killer had been spelled incorrectly.

UNDER "JOHN F. Kennedy" was written "PXJ 00050, Arlington Cemitery" — again an incorrect spelling.

After questioning the gas station owner and other people, the FBI concluded "no one had noticed any questionable persons in the telephone booth."



Pictured are two packets of more than 40,000 pages of the FBI's investigation into the assassination of John F. Kennedy, rel in Washington, D.C. Associated Press Wirephoto